Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Please amend claims 9 and 14.

1. (Previously Presented) A negative electrode for a lithium sulfur battery comprising:

a lithium metal;

a pre-treatment layer formed on the lithium metal, the pre-treatment layer having a thickness of 50 to 5000Å and including a lithium ion conductive material with an ionic conductivity of at least 1 X 10^{-10} S/cm, wherein the lithium ion conductive material is Li_xPO_y, where $2 < x < 4$ and $3 < y < 5$; and

a protection layer for the lithium metal.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Previously Presented) The negative electrode of claim 1, wherein the lithium ion conductive material is Li_3PO_4.

4. (Original) The negative electrode of claim 1, wherein the ionic conductivity of the lithium ion conductive material ranges from 1×10^{-10} S/cm to 1×10^{-6} S/cm.

5. (Previously Presented) A negative electrode for a lithium sulfur battery comprising:

a lithium metal;

a pre-treatment layer formed on the lithium metal, the pre-treatment layer having a thickness of 50 to 5000Å and including a lithium ion conductive material with an ionic conductivity of at least 1 X 10^{-10} S/cm; and

a protection layer for the lithium metal comprising $Li_aPO_bN_c$, where a is 2 to 4, b is 3 to 5, and c is 0.1 to 0.9.

6. (Original) The negative electrode of claim 5, wherein the protection layer for the lithium metal comprises $Li_{2.9}PO_{3.3}N_{0.46}$.

7. (Original) The negative electrode of claim 1, wherein the protection layer for the lithium metal has a thickness of 1000Å to 50μm.

8. (Original) The negative electrode of claim 1, wherein the protection layer is formed on the pre-treatment layer.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a negative electrode for a lithium sulfur battery comprising:

depositing a pre-treatment layer on a lithium metal under an inert gas atmosphere, the pre-treatment layer <u>being deposited to a thickness ranging from about 50 to about 5000Å and</u> including a lithium ion conductive material with an ionic conductivity of at least 1 X 10^{-10} S/cm, wherein the lithium ion conductive material is Li_xPO_y, where $2 < x < 4$ and $3 < y < 5$; and

depositing a protection layer for the lithium metal on the pre-treatment layer.

10. (Canceled).

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the lithium ion conductive material is Li_3PO_4.

12. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the ionic conductivity of the lithium ion conductive material ranges from 1×10^{-10} S/cm to 1×10^{-6} S/cm.

13. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the inert gas is selected from the group consisting of helium gas, neon gas, and argon gas.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a negative electrode for a lithium sulfur battery comprising:

depositing a pre-treatment layer on a lithium metal under an inert gas atmosphere, the pre-treatment layer being deposited to a thickness ranging from about 50 to about 5000Å and including a lithium ion conductive material with an ionic conductivity of at least 1×10^{-10} S/cm; and

depositing a protection layer for the lithium metal on the pre-treatment layer, wherein the protection layer for the lithium metal comprises $Li_aPO_bN_c$, where a is 2 to 4, b is 3 to 5, and c is 0.1 to 0.9.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the protection layer for the lithium metal comprises $Li_{2.9}PO_{3.3}N_{0.46}$.

16. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the protection layer for the lithium metal has a thickness of 1000Å to 50μm.

17. (Original) A lithium sulfur battery comprising:

a negative electrode comprising a lithium metal, a pre-treatment layer formed on the lithium metal, having a thickness of 50 to 5000Å and including a lithium ion conductive material with an ionic conductivity of at least 1 X 10^{-10} S/cm, and a protection layer for the lithium metal;

a positive electrode comprising a positive active material selected from the group consisting of elemental sulfur, sulfur-based compounds, and mixtures thereof; and

an electrolyte.

18. (Original) The lithium sulfur battery of claim 17, wherein the lithium ion conductive material is Li_xPO_y, where $2 < x < 4$ and $3 < y < 5$.

19. (Original) The lithium sulfur battery of claim 18, wherein the lithium ion conductive material is Li_3PO_4.

20. (Original) The lithium sulfur battery of claim 17, wherein the ionic conductivity of the lithium ionic conductive material ranges from 1×10^{-10} S/cm to 1×10^{-6} S/cm.

21. (Original) The lithium sulfur battery of claim 17, wherein the protection layer for the lithium metal comprises $Li_aPO_bN_c$, where a is 2 to 4, b is 3 to 5, and c is 0.1 to 0.9.

22. (Original) The lithium sulfur battery of claim 21, wherein the protection layer for the lithium metal comprises $Li_{2.9}PO_{3.3}N_{0.46}$.

23. (Original) The lithium sulfur battery of claim 17, wherein the protection layer for the lithium metal has a thickness of 1000Å to 50μm.

24. (Original) The lithium sulfur battery of claim 17, wherein the protection layer is formed on the pre-treatment layer.